

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-17 are rejected; claims 3 and 8 are objected to but have been found allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 1, 6, and 11 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,503,565 (McCoy), Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, and 11. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 6, and 11, and claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, and 12-17 depending respectively therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

McCoy discloses a power distribution system 10 including modular wall panels 12,14, wiring harnesses 16,18, end connectors 20,22, receptacle assembly 30 with two outlets 32 raised above face 36, and cover 40. “Outlets 32 are raised above face 36 so that when receptacle assembly 30 is placed in access opening 38 formed in modular wall panel 12 and removable cover 40 is inserted therein via screws 42, raised portion 44 extends through window 46 of removable cover 40.” (column 6, lines 55-59).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part “a modular wall panel including a base cover with at least one aperture; an electrical distribution harness connected to said modular wall panel, said electrical distribution harness including: an electrical connector including a plurality of terminals; at least one channel extending from and electrically connected with said electrical connector, said at least one channel including a plurality of electrical conductors at least partially therein, said plurality of electrical conductors connected with said plurality of terminals; an electrical receptacle connected to said electrical connector; and at least one receptacle mounting bracket positioned outside of said at least one channel and directly on said electrical receptacle, said at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding and

supporting said electrical receptacle, said receptacle mounting bracket having at least one attachment element connected to at least one of said modular wall panel and at least one said channel, said electrical receptacle protruding through both at least one said aperture and at least one said receptacle mounting bracket.” (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by McCoy, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Claim 6, as amended, recites in part “an electrical connector including a plurality of terminals; at least one channel extending from and electrically connected with said electrical connector, said at least one channel including a plurality of electrical conductors at least partially therein, said plurality of electrical conductors connected with said plurality of terminals; an electrical receptacle connected to said electrical connector; and at least one receptacle mounting bracket positioned outside of said at least one channel and directly on said electrical receptacle, said at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding and supporting said electrical receptacle, said receptacle mounting bracket having at least one attachment element configured for connection to at least one of the modular wall panel and said at least one channel, said electrical receptacle configured for protruding through both at least one said aperture and at least one said receptacle mounting bracket.” (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by McCoy, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Claim 11, as amended, recites in part “providing an electrical distribution harness including at least one channel having a plurality of electrical conductors at least partially therein and an electrical connector including a plurality of terminals, said plurality of electrical conductors connected with said plurality of terminals; connecting the electrical receptacle into said electrical connector; placing a receptacle mounting bracket over the electrical receptacle such

that a cutout at least partially surrounds and supports the electrical receptacle; positioning said receptacle mounting bracket outside of said at least one channel and directly on said electrical receptacle; and attaching said receptacle mounting bracket to the electrical distribution harness; and inserting the electrical receptacle through at least one said aperture.” (Emphasis added).

Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by McCoy, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Page 3 of the Office Action indicates that cover 40 of McCoy corresponds to the electrical receptacle mounting bracket of the present invention. Fig. 1 of McCoy shows that cover 40, however, is positioned on modular wall panel 12, not receptacle assembly 30, using screws 42. Further, Applicant submits that cover 40 is merely a decorative cover and does not support receptacle assembly 30. Thus, Applicant submits that McCoy fails to disclose a receptacle mounting bracket positioned directly on and supporting an electrical receptacle.

An advantage of the present invention is that it provides a receptacle mounting bracket which supports an electrical receptacle.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 6, and 11, and claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9-10, and 12-17 depending respectively therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but found allowable. However, claims 3 and 8 depend respectively from claims 1 and 6, which are in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 8 are also now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are

therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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